



CARRIER

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WWW.MDARC.ORG

October 2003

October Meeting

Friday, October 17

7:30 PM

Contesting

Dean Straw, N6BV

**Marriott Hotel
San Ramon**

Dean, an ARRL technical editor, will give a talk on contesting.

MDARC September Update

By Trevor Hall, WA6JAU

September is crunch month for Pacificon. Final preparations are being made and we are ready for October 17th. Ticket sales are going well, but many more tickets are available. Buy your tickets now from the many members selling tickets. You can also mail in your order for banquet and antenna seminar tickets to the P.O. Box, or order all your tickets on the website (<http://www.pacificon.org>) with PayPal.

The ballot for 2004 MDARC officers was completed and presented at the general meeting.

The technical committee surprised the club with access to Echo Link on the 441.385 Mhz repeater. Howard Burk, KE6PTT, and Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, gave a detailed demonstration of Echo Link at the general meeting. Staying in touch with your friends from anywhere in the world with a computer or handheld will be much easier through Echo Link. Thank you to everyone on the technical committee that made Echo Link possible.

Sergeant Eric Christensen gave a very informative speech at the general meeting on volunteer services for the Contra Costa County Sheriff's department. Sergeant Christensen volunteered to speak on the day before the meeting when the scheduled speaker cancelled earlier in the week. Thank you Sergeant Christensen for saving the day.

Remember that the next club meeting will be at the San Ramon Marriott on October 17th. The talk in station will be operating on the 147.06Mhz repeater for driving directions.

Adventures with Grid Squares

By Bruce Barton, KE6OEM

As veteran hams, most of you probably don't give much thought to your grid square. You may have obtained it by looking at a map and making an educated guess or by asking a veteran ham with lots of HF experience who lives in your same town.

As a "green" general class licensee, new to the world below two meters, and having no veteran handy, I set off to find out my home QTH grid square. It turned out to be a little more challenging than I expected, and made me wonder how accurate some of the grid squares are that I've heard exchanged across the airwaves.

To digress a little, just exactly what is a grid square? Born out of a need to quickly and uniquely identify and communicate each ham's location during contests, the Maidenhead Locator System divides the surface of the earth into 324 equal size fields. These fields are 20 degrees longitude by 10 degrees latitude and are further subdivided into 100 squares. Each square is further subdivided into 576 subsquares which are 5 minutes longitude by 2.5 minutes latitude in size. Fields are labeled with two letters, squares are labeled with 2 numbers and subsquares are labeled with two more letters. The combination of a field and a square is generally referred to as a "Grid Square" and is represented as AA01. For more precise location, the subsquare letters are added as in AA01AB. To those of us who generally associate degrees with a thermometer and minutes with a clock, the subsquares correspond roughly to 4 miles by 3 miles within the continental US.

Now, back to the problem at hand. Remembering that my pile of notes on Amateur Radio contained a "SIMPLETON'S Grid Square Map" courtesy of Amateur Radio Trader, it was pretty easy to determine that I was in the CM field. However, the intersection of 4 squares seemed to be just East of the Golden Gate. Hmm, was I in 87, 88, 97 or 98? I needed more detail to tell. Off to the Internet I went, to look

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The *Carrier* is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first of day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to carrier@gardnerclan.net or delivered to the editor at the address listed below. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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Ramblings from the Editor

By Jerry Gardner, W6UV

I'd like to start by thanking Bruce Barton for the *excellent* article on grid squares he submitted this month. Bruce says he's never written an article before, but it doesn't show—this is just the type of thing we need to more of in the *Carrier*. I hope Bruce's efforts will inspire more MDARC members to contribute material. Remember, you don't have to be a Nobel prize winner in literature to submit articles!

Pacificon is right around the corner (literally, for me!). How long has it been since MDARC started sponsoring Pacificon? Ten years? It seems like MDARC has *always* been the host and I have to think back a long way to remember a time when some other club put on the show.

Hundreds Comment on Morse Petitions

(Oct 1, 2003) ARRL

Although the bell has sounded ending Round 1 of the comment period on the initial seven Morse code-related petitions for rulemaking, members of the Amateur Radio community continue to post their opinions. Some of the petitions called for altogether eliminating Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse test, from the Amateur Service rules (Part 97). At the conclusion of the official 30-day comment period, the FCC had recorded a total of nearly 2300 comments on the seven petitions. The number of commenters is likely much smaller, however, since many commented on each individual petition. While some were content to express a brief comment pro or con, a few put forth recommendations of their own that were nearly petitions in themselves. The tenor of the comments reflects the fact that Morse code remains an emotional issue for many Amateur Radio licensees.

Amateur Radio Support Winds Down as Isabel Recovery Continues

(Sep 30, 2003) ARRL

Hurricane Isabel is long gone, but its effects linger in the US Southeast, especially in North Carolina. Amateur Radio activities supporting the storm response, relief and recovery have wound down for the most part, but one disaster relief professional has suggested an additional role for Amateur Radio in these kinds of disasters. In North Carolina, joint Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN)-Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) support for The Salvation Army's relief efforts in the Morehead City area were scheduled to end today. Well over a dozen ham radio volunteers participated. Carteret County EC Rich Wright, KR4NU, said his ARES/RACES team helped in areas where ham radio provided the only reliable communication.



Board Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2003

Meeting called to order by President Dave McIntyre, KG6ACD, at 7:30pm at Bakers Square Restaurant in Concord California

At the present time, due to resignations, the board consists of six members. Four members are needed for a quorum and the following board members were present creating the required amount:

Dave McIntyre, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, Harold Johnsen, AE6FC, and Howard Burk, KE6PTT.

Observing members also present were: Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, Keith Lattin, N6PMF, George Rousch, WB6OFH, Dana Jones, K6BRR, and Dave Gordon, N6SWE

Under Article II Section 6 Paragraph 4 motions were heard to fill vacancies on the board. Motions were made to place the following qualified members on the board for the remainder of the present term.

Dana Jones to position of Emergency Coordinator. Motion made by Trevor Hall, seconded by Howard Burk. Voted and accepted by the board. Welcome Dana.

Terry Matzkin to position of Director At Large. Motion made by Trevor Hall, seconded by Howard Burk. Voted and accepted by the board. Welcome Terry.

There is still a vacancy for secretary, because Carl and Sue Cook have not made any meetings since the general meeting in August. Also we were notified that escrow on their house in Grass Valley is closing in fifteen days and they will be moving.

Minutes of last board meeting were reviewed and changed to comments, because the August board meeting did not have a quorum.

Treasurer's report was not presented and held over until the general meeting on September 19, 2003.

Technical committee presented to the board that Echo Link access was added to the 441.325 Mhz repeater. The present access to Echo Link is open and access instructions will be posted on the website. It was recommended by the board that Echo Link access be restricted to MDARC members starting January 1, 2004. Howard Burk said restricted access is possible.

Board recommended that a storage unit be rented to store MDARC assets. Keith Lattin volunteered to research prices and availability for the next board meeting.

Trevor Hall requested if more than one raffle prize could be purchased in one month. The request was approved and Trevor said he would not buy more than two months of prizes at any one time.

George Rousch announced that HRO is requesting 500 MDARC brochures and 250 Pacificon flyers, to distribute to all their stores. George also asked for direction on badge holders for each member to wear a name tag. It was decided that badge holders are not necessary because no name tag design has ever been created. George asked for information on a supplier for MDARC embroidered patches. Trevor Hall said he would contact Greg Estep, KE6VTA, for information. George Rousch asked for the price of the annual party. An \$8.00 dollar price was approved.

Terry Matzkin asked for information on magnetic sign supplier and approval of purchase of signs before Pacificon. Approval was given for purchase and Trevor Hall volunteered to research the supplier.

George Roush requested that MDARC purchase low cost flashlights to issue to new members. George was authorized to

purchase forty \$1.00 flashlights.

Dave Gordon was authorized to purchase a Pacificon rubber stamp to put on the front of the present membership application indicating that these members either renewed or joined MDARC at Pacificon. These membership applications will apply to the year 2004.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Sincerely Trevor Hall, Vice President

ARRL Rebukes FCC Commissioner's Remarks

(Sep 25, 2003) ARRL

The ARRL has strongly objected to FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy's suggestion that Broadband over Power Line (BPL) technology will contribute to what she described as "broadband Nirvana." Addressing the United Powerline Council's annual conference September 22 in Arlington, Virginia, Abernathy expressed unabashed enthusiasm for BPL and recommended a combination of regulatory restraint and the elimination or substantial modification of existing rules as steps along the "path to Enlightenment." In a terse response faxed today on behalf of the League's 155,000 members, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, asserted that Abernathy overlooked some significant issues in her Nirvana analogy



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Adventures with Grid Squares

Continued from page 1

for a couple of vendors that I knew had those glossy posters. But alas, they had little more detail than SIMPLETON's map. I did find a web site, <http://pages.infinit.net/ve2pij/gridqra.html>, which had grid square maps for the entire world that might be useful later. Doing what I should have done to begin with, I checked the ARRL web site and found their Grid Square Calculator at: <http://www.arrl.org/locate/grid.html>. However, it wanted my longitude and latitude to calculate my grid square, and I had no idea what longitude and latitude I was at (maybe I should have bought that GPS unit). Luckily they had another web page where I could enter my city and state and it would give grid square as well as longitude and latitude. Great, I'm in CM87!

But what is my subarea? How often will a ham ask for my subarea? Going back with my longitude and latitude, the calculator told me Concord is in Grid Square CM87XX. But wait, what is this notation "Location is 1.5 mi (2.4 km) from NORTH edge of grid square, 1.6 mi (2.6 km) from EAST edge of grid square." It seems that Concord is right on the edge of a grid square. Going back to the city and state web page, the town of Clayton (just east of Concord) is in Grid Square CM97. Oh well, back to the drawing board.

After a little reflection, I decided that the ARRL is probably giving me the longitude and latitude of the city hall of both towns. I guess I really need the longitude and latitude of my home QTH. Now how do I figure that out without that GPS unit or a topographic map? The popular Internet mapping services that I looked at don't seem to show longitude and latitude. On one of them, I could enter the longitude and latitude of city hall and get a map, but no longitude or latitude was shown. Using www.google.com and these keywords "convert street address to longitude latitude", I found a web site (http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~cvm/latlon_find_location.html#address) which gave me the following steps to find the longitude and latitude of a street address in the US:

- Go to Microsoft's terra server at <http://terraServer.microsoft.com>
- Click on 'Advanced Find'
- Click on 'Address'
- Enter the address and click 'go'
- Click on the 'aerial photograph' link
- Verify where on the photo your house or address is
- Click on the 'Info' link above the photograph
- The page will have the latitude and longitude of the borders of each photo labeled
- Use these to estimate the latitude and longitude of that address.

Now that I had the longitude and latitude of my QTH, I went back to ARRL's calculator to get my grid square with the subarea. Sure, this is an estimate, but since the aerial photographs are only a few blocks wide, it should be a better estimate than I would have had to make otherwise. So it turned out my part of Concord was in CM97 as opposed to city hall being in CM87.

Minutes of the General Meeting

September 19, 2003

Meeting called to order by President Dave McIntyre, KG6ACD, at 7:30pm.

Dave McIntyre thanked Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, for covering the month of August while he was on vacation.

John Schulze, KR6CR, gave the Pacificon report. The hotel is ready, and sales are higher than last year. The next general meeting will be held at the San Ramon Marriott on the first night of Pacificon. John pointed out that Pacificon tickets were available from members on the floor.

John Schulze and Dave Gordon, N6SWE, opened nominations for 2004 MDARC Officers.

Nominations:

President: Trevor Hall. The nomination was seconded. There were no objections or further nominations from the floor.

Vice President Nominations: Bob Beard The nomination was seconded. There were no objections or further nominations from the floor.

Secretary: Richard Schulze, AA6DL. The nomination was seconded. There were no objections or further nominations from the floor.

Emergency Coordinator: Dana Jones K6BRR The nomination was seconded. There were no objections or further nominations from the floor.

Directors At Large: Richard Brown, KT6Y, and Jay Caldis, KT6Y. Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, and Howard Burk, KE6PTT, still have one year left on their two term.

The nominations were seconded. There were no objections or further nominations from the floor. All nominations were closed.

Howard Burk announced that there is Echo Link access is working on the W6CX 441.385 Mhz repeater. Howard explained the touch tone codes to access Echo Link and gave a demonstration. Howard was able to connect to Cleveland Ohio with a hand held from the podium.

George Roush, WB6OFH, announced that he had Pacificon patches for sale.

John Stuart, KM6QX, announced that the last service event for the year still has openings. Contact Pete Harris or himself if anyone can help.

After a ten minute break the meeting was called to order by President Dave McIntyre. The floor was given to Vice President Trevor Hall to announce the speaker of the night.

Speaker for the night was Contra Costa County Sheriff Sgt. Eric Christensen. Eric presented an overview of the volunteer program with the sheriff's office. Eric gave a great presentation and should be commended for stepping in when the scheduled speaker backed out earlier in the week. Thank you Eric.

The raffle was held and an ICOM IC-Q7A dual band handheld was won by Larry Miller, KD6ZUJ.

It was still early enough for another event, so Vice President Trevor Hall set up a computer, projector, and Internet connection to demonstrate the Echo Link software. Howard Burk was able to demonstrate all the functions of Echo Link once the computer was set up.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Trevor Hall at 10:00pm.

Respectfully Trevor Hall, Vice President



NETS

W6CX ATV Nets

Coffee Net Saturday 8:00am
Sunday 8:00am

Electronics Class Wednesday 7:30pm
Net Control: KF6IQL

General ATV Net Thursday 8:00pm

Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

Thursday, 7:00pm

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Jim Brunk, N6BHX
East County 146.535 Simplex
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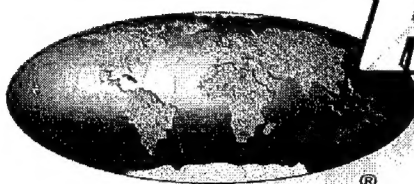
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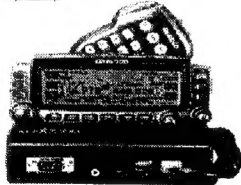
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- Auto Dialer

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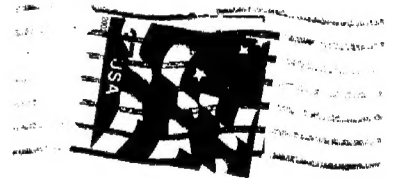
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- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 6	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square Willow Pass, Concord
October 17	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting	San Ramon Marriott
October 17-19		Pacificon 2003	San Ramon Marriott
October 30		November <i>Carrier</i> Deadline	
November 3	7:30 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square Willow Pass, Concord

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523



Change In Service Requested

MDARC Meeting: October 17 at San Ramon Marriott

